

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, DC 20554

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In the Matter of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 \_\_\_\_\_ ) MB Docket No. 05-  
311  
as amended by the Cable Television Consumer \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Protection and Competition Act of 1992 \_\_\_\_\_ )

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**COMMENTS OF [INSERT NAME OF PEG ORGANIZATION]**

These Comments are filed by the Los Angeles Cable Television Access Corporation (LACTAC) in support of the comments filed by the Alliance for Community Media ("Alliance"), the Alliance for Communications Democracy, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors ("NATOA"), and other national local government organizations. Like the Alliance, LACTAC believes that local governments can issue an appropriate local franchise for new entrants into the video services field on a timely basis, just as they have for established cable services providers. In support of this belief, we wish to inform the Commission about the benefits of cable franchising and the Public, Educational, and Government Access ("PEG") services in our community.

**Cable Franchising in Our Community**

**Community Information**

LACTAC operates LA36, an educational access channel in the City of Los Angeles, California. Our franchised cable provider(s) are Adelphia, Comcast and Time Warner. Our community has negotiated cable franchises since 1985.

**PEG Access Services**

LACTAC has provided access services on LA36 in our community for more than 8 years. In our most recently completed fiscal year, LA36 provided over 1,000 hours of new, original local programming to the cable subscribers. Below are the highlights of our services to the community.

- More than 6,000 students per year take college credit courses via LA36, offered by the Los Angeles Community College District and the California State University systems.
- LA36 is the largest producer and distributor of local cultural programs in Southern California, showcasing the broad cultural diversity that is Los Angeles.
- The League of Women Voters last year honored LA36 for excellence in distributing voter information. We feature non partisan local political coverage, candidate platform statements and candidate debates during campaign season.
- LA36 produces and distributes a high school Game of the Week, featuring the top boy and girl athletes from the public schools in Los Angeles in cooperation with the Los Angeles Unified School District.
- More than 200 non-profit organizations have been featured in the past three years on LA36 through locally-produced programming.
- Our internet site; [www.la36.org](http://www.la36.org), now allows any-time access to the public of all of our programming. This site is supported through access funds.
- We also feature unique non-local programming available via satellite feed such as Arts Showcase, UCTV and the Research Channel.
- Finally, students from every major college and university in Southern California provide programming for LA36 as part of our on-going outreach with journalism, communication arts and broadcast production curriculum.

## **Conclusions**

Local franchises ensure that the cable operator provides the PEG Access services which are responsive to the local community needs as determined through community needs assessments and the local knowledge of educators, local elected officials and local nonprofit organizations.

Local franchises thus provide a means for local government to appropriately oversee the operations of cable service providers in the public interest, and to

ensure compliance with applicable laws. There is no need to create a new Federal bureaucracy in Washington to handle matters of primarily local interest.

Local franchises allow each community, including ours, to have a voice in how local cable systems will be implemented and what will be available to meet local needs. These factors are equally present for new entrants as for existing users.

The Los Angeles Cable Television Access Corporation therefore respectfully requests that the Commission take this opportunity to reaffirm the primacy of local government authority over franchising and should make clear that imposition on a new entrant of PEG Access, consumer protections and other public interest services requirements that are equivalent to those of the incumbent does not constitute an unreasonable refusal to award an additional competitive franchise within the meaning of federal law..

The PEG Access model should be strengthened and applied to new technologies, assuring that localism and community participation are not displaced by commercial interests.

Respectfully submitted,

Los Angeles Cable Television Access  
Corp.

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